RADIOACTIVE TUNGSTEN SEIZED ON LITHUANIAN-BELARUSIAN BORDER. Police at the Medininkai customs post on 25 January detained a truck traveling from Briansk to Telšiai, which was emitting high radiation. They discovered about two tons of radioactive tungsten hidden in a secret compartment. The radiation levels inside the truck reached 3,600 microroentgens an hour, far in excess of the level of 15 to 20 microroentgens considered safe. Tungsten is not naturally radioactive so it is not clear whether the radioactivity was acquired from the truck, which might have earlier carried some other radioactive cargo, or from a prior storage place. The radioactive cargo was delivered to the Ignalina Nuclear Power Station for safekeeping. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

AGREEMENT ON FINANCING BALTBAT TRAINING SIGNED. On 30 January, the Deputy Defense Ministers of the three Baltic States signed an agreement in Vilnius on financing the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (BALTBAT) exercises at the Adažiai training center in Latvia. Earlier this month, Lithuania sent 36 officers to Adažiai for courses in English-language and officer training that will last six to eight months. The officers will then train 110 Lithuanian soldiers who, joined by similar sized groups from Latvia and Estonia, will later form the battalion. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

SOCIETY OF LITHUANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES FORMED. The Society of Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Exiles was formed on 28 January in Vilnius as an "independent patriotic social organization,". Parliament deputy Antanas Stasiškis was elected its chairman. The creation of the society had been prompted by the conversion during the summer of the Union of Political Prisoners and Exiles from a social organization into a political party, thus leaving out members who belonged to other political parties. Lithuanian press reports that no representatives of right-wing political parties attended the constituent assembly were incorrect: Homeland Union Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis arrived before its closing to give a speech. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

THREE LITHUANIAN FACTIONS MOVE TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION. In a joint statement issued on 1 February, the Lithuanian Democratic Party, the National Union of Lithuania, and the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees said they would cooperate more closely on a parity basis. The three factions, which collectively hold 12 parliament seats, plan to meet weekly to coordinate activities and will run joint candidates in the March local elections. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.